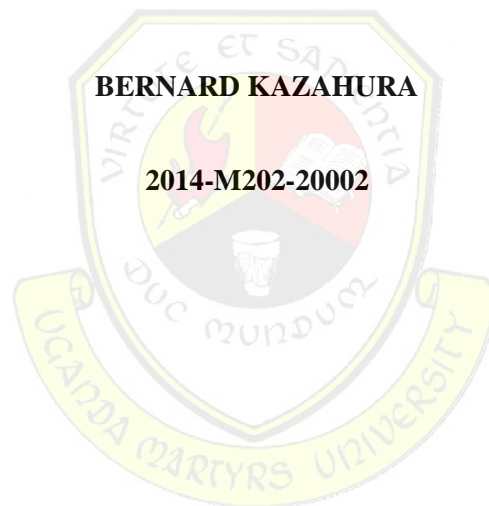


**A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE THREATS POSED BY REFUGEE INFLUX TO THE HOST
COMMUNITY CASE STUDY: RWAMWANJA REFUGEES SETTLEMENT, KAMWENGE
DISTRICT**



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2014-M202-20002

UGANDA MARTYRS UNIVERSITY

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**A POST GRADUATE DISSERTATION PRESENTED TO THE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT OF DEPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES IN
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MASTERS
DEGREE IN REFUGEE AND MIGRATION STUDIES**

UGANDA MARTYRS UNIVERSITY

BY

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2014-M202-20002

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work with deep love and gratitude to my loved Cousin Brother Brig. Charles Bakahumura and Mrs. Bakahumura Aurelia who through their parental love, care, support, and selfless giving made me go to study.

It is also dedicated to my beloved parents Mr. Bamutenda Leo and Kembaga Leonard who nurtured me.

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ABSTRACT

This study set out to analyse the threats posed by refugees' influx to the host communities case study: Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, Kamwenge District, Uganda and was guided by the 3 research objectives, examining the actual threats posed by refugees influx on host communities, assessing the effects of threats posed by the refugees influx on host communities and identifying possible solutions to the threats posed by the refugees influx on host communities. Particularly the researcher employed exploratory study design, in which qualitative – phenomenological approaches of data collection, analysis and presentation were used to examine the underlying threats from the social, political, and economic aspects.

The results did indicate that conflicting relationship between the host community and the refugees is attributed to a number of factors like scarcity of resources like land and water. And that the host community was not prepared enough by government to welcome the refugees. More so local people have a fear to stay with the refugees even before they are offended, they are already suspicious of the refugees and associate them with many negative practices of witch craft and cannibalism. And this in turn soils the relationship between the two communities. Further the findings showed that the influx of refugees did impact mainly negatively on the social services like health, education, housing and employment among the host communities.

The study recommended that in order to address such threats, policy makers and other stakeholders working on the refugee problem should adopt and deploy new methods that can promote peace and economic development of the host communities, promoting social relationships, and empowering both the host communities and the refugees.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

1.2 Background of the study

The question of refugees is a worldwide phenomenon given the rampant misunderstandings between states due to conflict of interests in trade and territorial boundaries (Jackson, 1987). Conflicts can arise in one single state due to political insurgencies, failure of ethnic groups to co-exist, militarism and blatant violation of human rights.

The 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, as amended by its 1967 protocol defines a refugee as a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country...". Also according to International refugee law a refugee is defined as someone who seeks safety in a foreign country because of war and violence, natural disasters, or out of fear of persecution.

Right now there are more than 60 million forcibly displaced people in the world, according to the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR. Just over half were uprooted by conflicts in Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia and half of all refugees are children.

With the increase of conflict within states around the world, there has been a considerable number of refugees seeking asylum outside their resident state. The main origins of asylum seeking

refugees are dated as far back as the Second World War when many families were displaced and searched for a safe haven. (De Haas, 2005).

The challenges of refugees are among the biggest facing the world today. No country is left untouched. Some voices paint the issue as a security threat, others say refugees are an economic problem and social burdens; some make it a polarizing political issue, while others emphasize the humanitarian mandate to assist forcibly displaced people.

The circumstances under which refugees leave their country are different and often in fleeing persecution, they are without the luxury of bringing personal possessions or preparing themselves for life in a new culture. Recognizing this fact, the federal governments should provide transitional resettlement assistance to newly arrived refugees. In the first 90 days, agencies such as the IRC contract with the department of State to provide for refugee's food, housing, medical care, counselling and other services to help the refugee make a rapid transition to economic self-sufficiency.

In the constitution of the International Refugee Organization (IRO), a distinction is made between refugees pre- or post-war victims of Nazi or fascist regimes or of racial, religious or political persecution and displaced persons (DPs) who were displaced in the course of or after World War II. As far as the DPs were concerned, the IRO was "to encourage and assist in every possible way the early return to their countries of origin. If Jews were classified as refugees, then Palestine was the obvious place for them to be resettled. As the Report of the High Commissioner for Refugees submitted to the Twenty-First Ordinary Session of the League of Nations Assembly noted, "Palestine alone has made a contribution of any size in reference to large-scale or group settlement of Jews".

In earlier times, national boundaries in Africa were of limited significance; such is not the case today, especially where those boundaries bear little relation to peoples' patterns of habitation. Thus individual ethnic groups can be found within the boundaries of several nation-states. Such is the case in the multinational area west and north of Lake Victoria. (Andreas, 2003).

Although advances in communications technology are widely heralded as evidence of progress by the world community; major events of dramatic impact continue to occur virtually unnoticed. In October 1982, tens of thousands of people in southwest Uganda were uprooted and forced to flee their homes. Their plight is little known by the public due to the isolation of the areas involved, but its causes are familiar - greed, hatred among ethnic groups, hunger for power, and short-sighted politics. (Adamson, 2006).

In Uganda the reality of refugees dates back to the independence era when she hosted 7000 Polish refugees in 1942, majority of whom were women and children who were settled in Nyabeya, Masindi and Kojja, Mukono districts respectively.

However, in the execution of this international and humanitarian duty, the Government of Uganda is not without challenges, majority of which emanate from the refugees themselves. Startlingly, it has been and is still a common tendency for most studies and international attention to focus on refugees and the needs and problems of the refugees alone, while the negative effects refugees have on the community is often overlooked. This is not intended to deviate from providing the much needed assistance to the refugees who often live in precarious conditions; however, we easily notice that following the construction of refugee camps, and the subsequent influx of thousands of refugees from different ethnic groups and countries, changes the environment of the host community all together.

The purpose of this study therefore, is to critically analyse the threats posed by the advent of the refugees' influx on the host community. According to Jeffers. (1996:67), this is most likely, due

to social friction as the refugees and the host communities begin to compete for the scarce resources available.

It is anticipated by the researcher that at the end of the study, the possible threats will be identified and most importantly, recommendations be made to strike a meaningful balance between the refugees and host communities to enable them co-exist harmoniously such that peace building skills and development can be realized.

1.2 Statement of the problems

According to Article 2 of the 1951 UN convention relating to the status of Refugees, one of every 120 persons is living outside his or her homeland, because they are fleeing political persecution or natural disasters, civil wars and other situations which threaten their lives. Such a tragic state of affairs not only for the people who have been forced from their homelands but also for those who must receive and subsequently host them. As noted by Kimberly. (1983:87) the problem is not simply how best to help refugees, but, given the climate of restrictive and temporary asylum, it is about how to find solutions that are acceptable to host communities for without the host community's acquiescence and active involvement it will be much more difficult to help refugees. In action and in analysis, the focus remains on the plight of refugees themselves but it is also important to focus on the host communities. Following the above, the researcher is propelled to carry out an investigation into the possible threats posed by the influx of refugees on host communities.

1.3 Objective

1.3.1 General Objective

To find out the possible threats posed by the influx of refugees on host communities

1.3.2 Specific Objective

1. To examine the actual threats posed by refugees influx on host communities
2. To assess the effects of threats posed by the refugees influx on host communities
3. To identify possible solutions to the threats posed by the refugees influx on host communities

1.3.3 Research questions

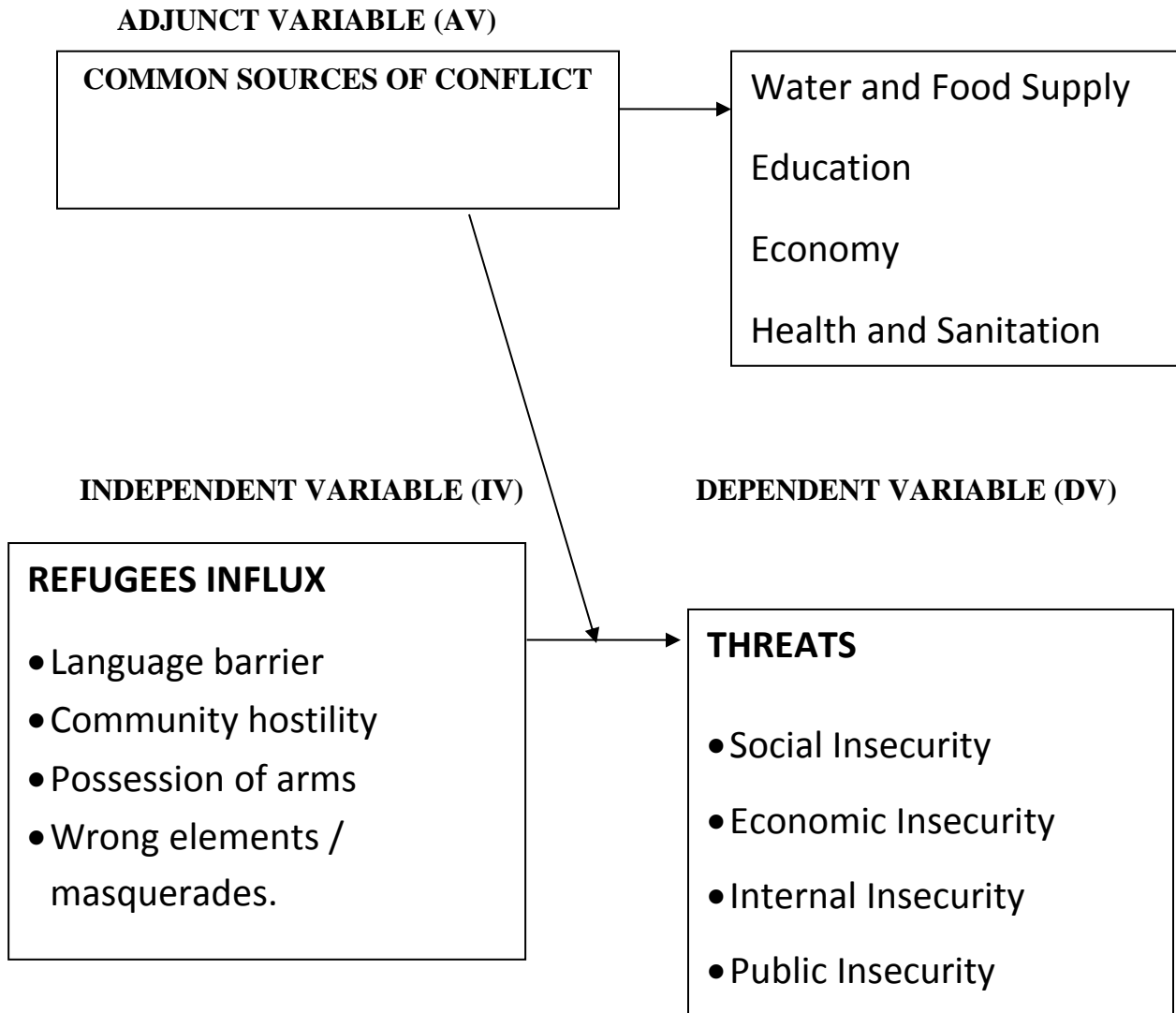
1. What are the actual threats posed by refugee's influx on host communities?
2. What is the effects of the threats posed by the refugees' influx on host communities?
3. What are the possible solutions to the threats posed by the refugees' influx on host communities?

1.4 Significance of the study

The study findings, insights and conclusions will enlighten the government through the office of the Prime Minister to find new approaches in the protection of refugees while maintaining peace and security in the host communities and the country at large.

In addition, relief agencies both local and international that are having interests in joining the cause for refugees will make good use of the study recommendations in terms of knowing the threats common in refugee communities and host communities that can cause insecurity.

1.5 Conceptual Framework



From the conceptual frame work above, it is postulated that refugee's influx are most likely to bring about security threats that range from military, political, economic and social security. From refugee influx there will accrue phenomena like, language barrier, possession of arms, wrong elements, and community hostility. The concurrent/alternative source of insecurity is seen to be common sources of conflict which comprise of water and food supply, education, economy, healthy and sanitation and environment.

1.6 Operational Definitions

Refugees: A refugee is defined as any person owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, natural calamities like floods, earthquakes strong winds etc is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail them of the protection of that country.

Refugee influx: The UNHCR during an executive meeting on the protection of refugees in June 1995 gave refugees influx the meaning of large-scale flow of persons fleeing persecution from a mother land into another country deemed secure.

Host Nation:

Here the host nation will be defined as any sovereign nation which whether through proactive choice or through inability to act, receives refugees and actively allows them to reside within their borders on a long-term basis or at least acknowledges their existence.

1.7 Scope of the Study

1.7.1 Content scope

The study's general concern is the identification of possible threats posed by refugees' influx in Rwamwanja settlement. It disinters facts resulting from the refugee-host amalgamation and recommend new approaches for a harmonious mode of co-existence.

1.7.2 Geographical scope

The study is based in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, Kamwenge District, Uganda

1.7.2 Time scope

The study considered the last 10 years, a period when refugee influx to Rwamwanja is best memorized by majority of host community members.

1.8 limitations and Delimitations

This research was limited by inadequate funds as much money was needed to run the whole process. It was also limited by time especially in collecting data from the field. And lastly, it was affected by inadequate resources since the researcher could not afford modern libraries and a well-stocked internet system.

However, despite these challenges, the researcher kept determined and went an extra mile and used the resources within his reach to produce a substantial research.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

This chapter gives an analysis of the related literature available on the threats posed by refugee influx to the host communities.

The international refugee law of 1951 convention defines a refugee as someone who seeks safety in a foreign country because of war and violence, natural disasters, or out of fear of persecution. According to a Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, “various conflicts and refugee formations around the globe are inextricably linked”. According to Mueller (2006: 78) sources of conflicts are many and include ethnicity, religion, political ideology, and regimes change. These factors, individually or in concert, contribute to massive flows of refugees across national borders in the last few decades, and Africa contributes a lion’s share to these flows.

1967 Optional Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees *requires* host governments to provide security to refugee populations within their borders. In reality, as long as the host state allows refugees to cross its borders, the international community can do little to ensure that the host government provides adequate security for those refugees. Host states/communities have three obvious choices in dealing with its refugees: they can act negatively, they can act positively, or they can fail to act.

Conversely, Kenya demonstrates how a host government’s negative policies can contribute to political violence among its refugees: Kenya’s long standing apprehension with regard to large refugee influxes is the result of several factors: a chronic shortage of arable land; a particular fear of ethnic Somalis, who in the 1960s fought for the north-east of the country to be incorporated into

a greater Somali state; and a more general concern that the arrival of refugees will lead to the spread of firearms, increased levels of crime and social unrest.

According to Agostoni (2005:89), refugees including asylum seekers and internally displaced persons by virtue of their status, are exclusively vulnerable. They have often been subjected to harassment, threats detention, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment and exploitation.

According to Bapat (2006:58), in their country of asylum as strangers, refugees face a number of other obstacles such as language barrier, xenophobia, lack of adequate education, substandard medical facilities and poor security. Their situation is further exacerbated by the absence of viable institutional mechanism through which they can seek redress.

As well as these internal disaffected and disruptive populations, there were those who lived as refugees in neighbouring states who either chose not to be repatriated or were not permitted to be repatriated. Some of them posed threats to the weakened sovereignty of the states from which they fled. This chapter critically analyses threats posed by refugees to the host communities, impacts of these threats and the possible solutions to these threats.

2.1 THREATS POSED BY REFUGEES INFLUX ON HOST COMMUNITIES

2.1.1 Social Insecurity

The concept of societal insecurity primarily deals with the issue of collective identity. As explained by Waeber (1993:73), societal insecurity “concerns the ability of a society to persist in its essential character under changing conditions and possible actual threats”. From this perspective, the national value of the host community is the referent object under threat. It is the refugee problem in general, whether voluntary or involuntary, legal or illegal, that constitutes this threat, as long as

the refugees pose a threat to the identity of the host community through their different language, culture, or religion.

Refugee influx as a social security threat is not an objective and universal issue, but rather a subjective threat, dependent on ways in which the receiving state/community defines itself (Weiner, 1992-1993).

The securitization of refugee influx as a threat to the survival of the host community is problematic; it labels refugees and ultimately excludes them from society. As argued by Huysmans. (2000: 656), discourse that frames refugee influx as a threat to societal security “reproduces the political myth that a homogeneous national community or western civilization existed in the past and can be re-established today through the exclusion of those refugees who are identified as cultural aliens”.

2.1.2 Economic insecurity

Another way in which refugee influx has been argued to pose a threat to a host community’s interest is through its pressure on the state’s economy. Refugee problem has, and will continue to have, a significant economic pressure on the receiving community.

Refugee influx can be argued to pose a threat to a host community’s economic security through its impact on the labour market. Guild (2009:900) addresses this concern by highlighting some key issues: do refugee workers decrease wages in strong economies? And, in a strong economy, do refugees take away jobs from native-born workers? Public opinion often supports the notion that refugees depress wages and take away jobs, contributing to economic problems (Somerville and Sumption 2009). More so according to Chomsky (2007: 65), the theory that the number of people determines the number of jobs is a fallacy. Rather, population growth facilitated by refugee influx creates jobs while simultaneously providing people to take these jobs.

The economic impact of refugee influx differs in every state and depends on the economic conditions of the time; refugee influx often has a positive impact on the employment levels of the host community. For instance, a study on the relationship between refugees and unemployment in Canada by Islam (2007) concludes that refugee influx does not result in higher unemployment levels rather it may, in some cases, contribute to temporary unemployment; this effect dissipates over time, as the state's economy begins to adjust to the increase in labour supply. Islam (2007: 53) says that "in the long run, demand side effect takes place, wages adjust, labour demand is restored and thereby Canadian born workers are benefited". Complementary to this study, a paper by Somerville and Sumption (2009:79) demonstrates that although the effects of refugee influx vary from state to state, community to community, refugee influx has a minimal impact on wages.

Refugees are portrayed to be so numerous and poor that they pose a strong economic threat to the state, creating housing shortages and straining education, transportation, sanitation and communication services (Weiner, 1992; Stivachtis, 2008).

The presentation of refugee influx as a strain to a state's social services is produced and reproduced through discourse. As argued by Huysmans (2000: 98), the use of metaphors referring to "floods" or "invasions" of refugees and asylum seekers create the perception that refugee influxes are threat to the host community's economic security, dramatizing the challenges posed by flows of refugees so that the issue appears more threatening. A study on the media's portrayal of refugees in London concludes that inaccurate and unbalanced reporting on this aspect of refugees, which often refers to "overwhelming" influxes, has resulted in a sense of fear and insecurity from the local native community and negative perceptions of refugees (ICAR 2004).

2.1.3 Internal insecurity

In addition to societal and economic insecurity, internal insecurity has also emerged as an aspect of security which is threatened by refugee influx. The notion of refugee influx as a threat to internal security has been present since the 1980s (Huysmans 2000). As highlighted by Huysmans, the Schengen Agreement and Convention of Dublin connected refugee problem to terrorism, international crime, and border control. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11 2001 to New York, refugee influx has featured prominently on the counter-terrorism agenda; governments have tightened refugee policies, linking refugee influx with terrorist activities (Spencer, 2008).

In the United States, refugees immediately became a matter of national security. President Bush quickly put forth a strategy to combat terrorism through restrictive refugee policy, institutionalizing refugee problem as a threat to internal security. Six weeks after 9/11, the USA patriot act was signed into law, strengthening border controls, heightening surveillance of foreign nationals in the United States, and permitting the government to detain, prosecute, and remove foreigners suspected of terrorist behavior (Lebowitz and Podheiser 2001-2002). Refugee policies and border control became instruments in the “War on Terror”. Several scholars support the notion that refugees policy must be restricted in order to protect the receiving state’s internal security.

Just as political discourse and the media have portrayed refugee influx as a threat to societal and economic security, hostile attitudes toward refugees and the apparent connection between refugee influx and terrorism are prevalent in politics and the media. In the periods after September 11th 2001 and the Madrid bombings, Spanish newspapers emphasized a connection on refugees as a criminal behavior, influencing political action and public opinion (Saux, 2007). In the days following the September 11 attacks, the urgent need to crack down on refugee laws was prevalent

in the media and political discourse. Evidently, the connection between refugees and terrorism has been reinforced and entrenched in public opinion through the practice of discourse.

As argued by Daniel Griswold of the Cato Institute (2001: 554), refugees and border control are two separate issues: terrorist attacks by foreigners are not a result of open and liberal refugees policies, but are caused by the failure of keeping out the small number of foreigners that do pose a threat to internal security. Similarly, Spencer (2008:9) points out the problems that arise from giving “refugee influx” the wrong meaning. Much scholarly writing fails to distinguish between “refugee” and “foreigner”. In the case of 9/11, the terrorists were not refugees; rather, they entered the United States on temporary visas (Spencer, 2008).

2.1.4 Public insecurity

Similar to how refugee influx is connected with terrorism, it has also been related to increased criminality, resulting in the perception that refugee influx is a threat to public security. The issue of whether or not refugee influx actually results in increased crime rates is, again, an issue of perception versus reality. While the public has become increasingly concerned about high crime rates increase in refugee settlement and the threat that refugee influx pose to public order, these concerns are empirically unsound (Wang, 2012).

It cannot be denied that in Uganda, there has been a connection between increased refugee influx and increased crime rates. There is, indeed, a trend showing that communities that have high crime rates tend to have a higher refugee population (Wang, 2012). However, insightfully, this has much more to do with demographic factors than it does with simply having a refugee status. Not only to put eyes on refugees and leave the host members abandoned in their starvation, poverty, sickness and poor sanitation.

2.2 Impact of the Threats Posed by Refugee Influx

Since the late 1970s, the international community has been well aware of the severe impact that large scale refugee influxes can have on the social, economic and political life of host developing countries.

The highest refugee concentrations are in some of the poorest countries in the world. The presence of refugees compounds the already prevailing economic, environmental, social and, at times, political difficulties in these countries. Often such countries are confronted by a combination of all four of these factors. Nearly always their impact is substantial. In Malawi, a refugee influx which began in 1986, had led, by 1993, to one million Mozambican refugees in the country, some 10% of the national population. The presence of refugees, and demands on the already severely strained economy, services and infrastructure added to the extreme hardship affecting the local populations. In many instances, refugees become an added impediment to, or risk jeopardizing, the development efforts of the host community. Their negative aspects may be felt long after a refugee problem is solved; for example, the damage on the environment is a process and does not end with the repatriation of refugees.

2.2.1 The Economic Impact

From the moment of arrival, refugees compete with the local citizens for scarce resources such as land, water, housing, food and medical services. Over time, their presence leads to more substantial demands on natural resources, education and health facilities, energy, transportation, social services and employment. They may cause inflationary pressures on prices and depress wages. In some instances, Lee et al (2001: 741) notes, “Refugees significantly alter the flow of goods and services within the society and their presence may have implications for the host community's balance of payment and undermine structural adjustment initiatives”. One example of market

disturbances is the increased rent for office and residential purposes, not just for expatriates, but also for locally engaged staff, in response to a refugee influx situation. Increased construction activity results, but this is usually accompanied by increases in rent, benefiting those who are property owners, but adversely affecting the poor and those on fixed incomes, such as government officers. Likewise, increased demand for food and other commodities can lead to price rises in the market which will stimulate local economic activity, although, again, not benefiting the poorest.

The presence of a large refugee population in rural areas inevitably also means a strain on the local administration. According to Ratha (2007: 110), regional authorities divert considerable resources and manpower from the pressing demands of their own development to the urgent task of keeping refugees alive, alleviating their sufferings and ensuring the security of the whole community.

The economic impact of refugees on host community, however, is not necessarily negative. Stoffman (2008: 101) puts it that an economic stimulus may be generated by the presence of refugees and can lead to the opening and development of the host regions. This stimulus takes place, inter alia, through the local purchase of food, non-food items, shelter materials by agencies supplying relief items, disbursements made by aid workers, the assets brought by refugees themselves, as well as employment and income accrued to local population, directly or indirectly, through assistance projects for refugee areas. The presence of refugees also contributes to the creation of employment benefiting the local population, directly or indirectly.

The presence of refugees, as a focus of attention, can also attract development agencies to the host areas. While infrastructure is developed in the initial stage primarily to facilitate the work of host governments, UNHCR and its implementing partners in the refugee affected regions, it can also

serve as a catalyst to 'open up' the host region to development efforts that would otherwise never reach these 'marginal' areas.

While it is recognized that there may be some "positive" aspects to the impact of a refugee influx on the economic life of a host community, the large-scale presence of refugees invariably constitutes a heavy burden for receiving communities/countries, particularly LDCs. (lebowitz Pg 56). It is a point of concern, that relief organizations guided by the Office of the prime minister, in their guidelines to assist the vulnerable groups of refugees, should consider the local community, they are equally in need.

2.2.2 Local Ecology and Infrastructure

Modifications of eco-systems can be controlled or uncontrolled. If a modification of one or more factors is carried out to serve a special goal, such as land clearance for crop cultivation or land leveling for irrigation, and if this modification is based on sound planning, taking into account the impact on environmental conditions, the newly established eco-system is not necessarily inferior to the old one. The development of the new system can, in this instance, be called a controlled development. But, if a sudden and unplanned change takes place, it may lead to a serious, uncontrolled imbalance with an impact on the whole eco-system, both in the directly affected area and beyond. The mass movement of refugees is an example of a situation where the impact on the ecology is not fully under control, because the emergency character of the movement normally does not allow for early and proper planning of the new habitat.

The addition of a sizable group of refugees to an existing population creates a sudden and massive demand for scarce natural resources such as land, fuel, water, food and shelter materials, with long-term implications on their sustainable re-generation. Other longer term problems relate to soil

erosion, decreased soil fertility and landslides. Problems related to rural wood consumption are invariably serious. Estimates of rural wood consumption in Somalia indicate that the wood requirement for a family of five, for hut construction, is 2.4 m per head per year for cooking. Assuming that the wood consumption of refugees would be modest, say half the normal consumption, a camp of four thousand refugees would consume approximately 10,000m of wood a year for cooking. This leads to much cutting of trees and other resources hence leading to environmental degradation.

Supplementary food gathering through hunting, foraging and collecting local food stocks adds to the pressure on the environment. Additionally, Kimberly (1983: 211), puts it that human waste disposal can contaminate local ground water and cause the spread of diseases such as cholera, and typhoid.

Examples of the devastating threats of large refugee populations on the eco-systems and on the infra-structure of a host countries can be found in the experiences of the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan in hosting Afghan refugees. For instance, in Pakistan, over two million refugees contributed to accelerated wear and tear of roads and canals, and a significant increase in the consumption of fuel and fodder resources. Wood resources were further depleted as tented camps were converted into villages and the need for roofing timber put even more pressure on woodland resources. Many families brought livestock which grazed near camps, adding to the perennial problems of over-grazing and the consequential acceleration in soil erosion. Fuel and fodder removal also posed a serious threat to the capacity of the environment to renew its groundwater resources.

2.2.3 The Social Impact

If refugees are from the same cultural and linguistic group as the local population, there is often identification with and sympathy for their situation. There are many examples of refugees being given shelter in local people's houses. Over 400,000 refugees have been housed with family or friends in the former great Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Different Traditional animosities may exist between groups. Even if it is not the case, failures in communication and understanding caused by language and/or culture can form serious barriers. In some cases, the presence of one (ethnic) group of refugees may affect ethnic balances within the local population and exacerbate conflicts.

There are common complaints that refugees have added to security problems in general and crime rates, theft, murder in particular. Concomitantly, other social problems such as prostitution and alcoholism are also claimed to rise in the refugee areas. On the one hand, enforced idleness and poverty within a refugee camp may cause an escalation of such tendencies, particularly if there are groups of individuals who are not meaningfully occupied. (BBC News Reporter 22nd April 2016).

A common source of discontent for a local population, especially one that is poor, is to see refugees receiving services or items which are not available to them. Refugees may have access to services such as education and health while local people do not, although UNHCR, as a matter of principle, strives to promote an integrated approach to human services which respect the local policies. For example, Stevenson (2005: 54), talks about a review of the impact of refugee health services in eastern Kivu, DRC, and identified several problems, not the least of which was a failure of agencies to consult and coordinate with local health authorities. The provision of free health services for refugees undermined the local cost recovery approach. Higher salaries offered by NGOs

encouraged staff to leave local clinics. Ironically, some of these members of staff were former refugees who had contributed to the development of those very services.

On the other hand, refugees can bring assets to the hosting communities. Refugees indeed bring skills and knowledge with them that can be utilized to the benefit of local people. These skills vary, but do often include those of the more educated group, such as health professionals and teachers, who, even in limited numbers, can make a significant contribution in remote areas. An additional range of skills that can be brought by refugees may include an enterprise culture which can stimulate the local economy or offer innovative agricultural techniques previously unknown to the host areas. For example, refugees introduced swamp land rice in Guinea, making use of previously vacant land and introducing new agricultural techniques. Refugees in Nepal also introduced new techniques of cultivating cardamom, an important cash crop in the south-east of the country.

2.3 Efforts to mitigate the impacts

2.3.1 The Response of the international community to these impacts

The response of the international community to the impact of large refugee populations on host communities has been uneven, and characterized by different conceptual underpinnings and motivations. Within the conceptual framework which UNHCR sought to organize a response there was a facet of broader thinking on the relationship of refugee aid and development assistance, and their relationship, in turn, to durable solutions to refugee situations. As developments took place over time in relation to each of these three components, so did the emphasis on readdressing the effect of refugees on host communities also change.

Starting in the 1980s, the response was through what has become known as the "refugee aid and development" strategy. This approach stressed the need for relief to be development-oriented from the outset. The goal was to move refugees towards self-sufficiency and a durable solution to their situation. A durable solution often envisaged at the time was local integration. A significant event in the effort to develop the concept of refugee aid and development was the Pan-African Conference on the Situation of Refugees in Africa held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in 1979. It was, however, only at the 1982 Executive Committee, that UNHCR began to focus more sharply on this issue. In 1984, the Executive Committee adopted a document, *Principles for Action in Developing Countries*. The perspective, as reflected therein, is that all assistance, be it developmental or relief, is subordinate to the search for durable solutions. This solution, through integration in the country of origin or of asylum, will only be lasting if it allows the refugees or returnees to support themselves and participate in the social and economic life of the community on an equal footing with the surrounding population, and this should therefore be the ultimate aim of assistance to refugees.

Development projects aimed essentially at repairing or improving a host community's economic or social infrastructure to help it cope with the presence of refugees, but which do not directly benefit significant numbers of refugees, should as a rule be handled by UNDP and/or other developmental organizations including NGOs. Where such projects provide durable income-earning opportunities for refugees, UNHCR could contribute to their financing in proportion to the number of refugees among the beneficiaries.

2.3.2 Making Camps Safe and Secure: Measures and Actors

Securing camps and implementing physical protection requires that the following measures be undertaken in camps:

- combatants must be disarmed and demobilized, and non-refugees separated from bona fide refugees, by screening all those entering the host country (This could entail combatants and/or no refugees being located in separate camps from refugees);
- camps must be maintained as no militarized, weapon-free zones;
- camps must be located (or relocated) at a safe distance from the border, and in a conflict-free area;
- A climate of law and order must be created and maintained within and outside of the camps.

If these measures were appropriately implemented, they would address many of the safety problems associated with refugee camps and hosting areas. However, adherence to these principles and the implementation of these measures has been patchy or absent in a number of situations, notably the Great Lakes camps but also elsewhere, largely because host governments have been unwilling or unable to take the necessary steps to secure the camps.

Two sets of actors have responsibility for undertaking these tasks: the host government and UNHCR. According to international agreements, including the OAU Refugee Convention, the Law of Armed Conflicts, the UN Charter, human rights law, and other instruments, the physical protection and security of refugee camps is in the hands of host governments, who are supposed to work with UNHCR to ensure the safety of refugees.

These principles require the host government to ensure that refugee camps remain civilian and humanitarian in nature, that military elements have been disarmed and removed, and that camps are situated away from border areas. In some cases, these principles are put into practice by host states: police or army forces are positioned in and around camps, with the duty to ensure the security of the camps and the safety of refugees. However, in many other cases, this system of

protection does not work, or does so only poorly. To understand why this is so, it is necessary to look at the political context of camps, and the position of the main actors in this context.

2.3.3 The Host Government

The physical safety problems identified above will not always be of concern to the host community and local authorities, indeed some of the concerns may even be perpetrated by them. Safety problems are most likely to be addressed when they pose direct security threats or economic problems for the central government, or sometimes for the local authorities. In many host countries, developed and developing alike, the political stance of the central government vis a vis refugees and locals is quite different from that of the local government or authorities, including the military, which control the refugee hosting area.

According to Mueller (2006: 741), refugee movements occur in periods of regional instability and intensified political manoeuvring, where the governments of both host communities and sending countries have a variety of political, security and economic interests at stake, as do local authorities. As zones of concentrated resources and people, camps become integrated into the political and security context of the region, making it unlikely that they could be neutral, non-politicized places. Instead, camps are often viewed as components of the conflict, and as resources to further political ends.

More to that, Mueller (2006: 98), says that most of the worst cases of camp insecurity occur in regions where the refugee flows and refugee camps have a long history of militarization. During the Cold War, the militarization of refugee groups and of camps, such as occurred with Afghan groups in Pakistan or the Khmer Rouge on the Thai-Cambodian border, was ignored or condoned

because of the role they played in the superpower struggle, or because host state supporters of liberation struggles, particularly in Africa, condoned and enabled the use of refugee camps for use by liberation armies, as occurred by the Mozambican FRELIMO in Tanzania, by the South African ANC and Zimbabwean liberation forces (ZAPU) in Zambia.

This situation has changed only in a few ways since the end of the Cold War. Camps and refugees continue to be used and targeted as part of the conflict, except that in most cases, superpower involvement has been reduced, and camp militarization has become less acceptable to the West. In the post-Cold War context, host community's view of refugee camps and their willingness to prevent militarization of camps, is motivated by regional and border politics. This was graphically illustrated during the Great Lakes refugee crisis from 1994-1997, but the situation also occurs elsewhere, for example in southern Sudan, along the Thai-Burmese border, and along the Tanzanian-Burundian border, to name only a few.

As a consequence of militarization, most refugee camps are plagued by the problem of "mixed populations," that is, the presence of combatants and criminals among the refugees. In most camp situations, the refugee population includes both non-combatants (usually women, children, and elderly) and combatants, either actual or potential. Even if efforts are made to exclude actual combatants from camps (as is required by UNHCR mandate), it is difficult to enforce such exclusion for any length of time. Combatants are easily able to shed their weapons and uniforms in order to enter the camps. If camps are close to the border this enables refugee combatants more easily to mobilize and conduct guerrilla forays across the border. The militarization of camps can lead to all manner of security problems.

Even if host governments do not actively encourage the militarization of camps, there may be a general reluctance to host refugees, stemming from concerns about the economic or environmental burden posed by refugees or from potential security concerns. These concerns are often accompanied by the desire to see rapid repatriation, which can in turn translate into deliberate non-protection ("humane deterrence") as a way to encourage repatriation. This absence of will to protect refugees on the part of governments can also lead to camps and refugees being located too close to borders, or in zones of conflict, and thus vulnerable to 'hot pursuit' raids or artillery fire. Badly located camps are targeted by rebel groups or bandits for their resources, especially vehicles, but also food and medical supplies, or for the purposes of forced conscription. Even non-militarized camps or refugee settlements can thus become part of the war economy. This is a common occurrence, for example, in northwest Uganda, where rebel groups have attacked refugee settlements, sometimes shooting relief personnel or taking hostages, stealing relief supplies and hijacking vehicles.

Host community's failure to provide physical protection is not always only an issue of absent political will, but sometimes occurs because of lack of capacity. It is not always possible to locate camps in a deliberate way; refugees often spontaneously set up their own camps close to the border in order to facilitate return or monitor the situation in their home region, and then it is difficult to relocate them. In situations where armed combatants are mixed up with refugees, the only effective way to screen them out and keep them out is by means of an armed force. Although initial screening and disarming of incoming refugees sometimes is carried out at border crossing points by host authorities, it is not always effective and of course, not all refugees come through border crossings. The authorities can be overwhelmed by numbers, inadequately trained, or otherwise unwilling or able to accomplish this task, and many arms or combatants "get through" and mix

with bona fide refugees. Unless entering combatants are willing to yield their arms, it is often difficult for unarmed border officials or UNHCR Protection Officers to disarm combatants. Similarly, without adequate military backup, it is difficult to ensure that the civilian nature of a refugee camp is sustained and that weapons are eliminated from and kept out of camps.

Host governments often do not have sufficient or adequately trained and equipped forces, either police or military, to provide adequate and appropriate physical protection in camps. Lack of capacity is especially problematic in less developed host countries, particularly in border regions, which are less accessible and often beyond the reach of central governments.

2.3.4 UNHCR and Other Relief Agencies

When host governments will not or cannot implement protection measures, or in cases where there is no effective or functioning host government, who has responsibility for the physical protection of refugees? The responsibility for protection is often relegated to UNHCR, which is also blamed for physical protection problems, despite their not having either the mandate or capacity for physical protection, to say nothing of other security concerns. In some cases, UNHCR has tried to take on responsibility for camp security, as in the Goma camps in 1994-96, but these have been ad hoc responses and although partially successful in the Goma case, on the whole they have been less than satisfactory responses.

In most cases, UNHCR, NGOs and donors can only pressure host governments to provide the needed protection. When diplomatic pressure fails to produce results, relief agencies are faced with the problem of what to do. When camps become militarized, or when attacks on personnel occur, relief agencies must decide whether to remain in the camps and continue to provide assistance, but

turn a blind eye to the violations taking place, or to withdraw from the camps. It is difficult to discern a pattern of withdrawal: much depends on the politics of the situation as well as the likelihood of things improving. In northern Iraq, UNHCR withdrew from Atroush camp when it became too militarized; in eastern Zaire, they did not withdraw. In May 1993, Medicines sans Frontiers (Belgium) withdrew most of its women workers from camps in north-eastern Kenya after reports of a high incidence of assaults on refugees and aid workers. In northern Uganda in 1996, Oxfam, the largest NGO operating there, withdrew its staff after a series of assaults including abductions and robbery. In eastern Zaire, however, MSF withdrew, as did other NGOs, but Oxfam remained.

Apart from withdrawal, other options for UNHCR are rather meagre. The use of the Exclusion Clause as a way to keep camps free of combatants has not been widely used, and also requires the presence of a military or police force to carry out the ejection of combatants from the camps.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction:

The research methodology indicated systematic and empirical ways of turning assumptions into evidence in response to the objectives of the study below: to examine the actual threats posed by refugees influx on host communities; to assess the impact of threats posed by the refugees influx on host communities; to identify possible solutions to the threats posed by the refugees influx on host communities. This chapter provides information upon which validity of the study is judged (Kallet, 2004). It precisely guided the study on how it will be undertaken, where, and when as shown below.

3.1 Study Area

The area of the study was Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement in Kamwenge District in southwestern Uganda which is one of the renowned refugee hosting communities and would be easily accessed by the researcher.

3.2 Study design

The researcher employed exploratory study design, in which qualitative – phenomenological approaches of data collection, analysis and presentation were used. Under phenomenological approach, people's subjective experiences and interpretations were sought (Trochim, 2009). This helped the researcher to explore the possible threats posed by the influx of refugees on host communities.

3.3 Target population

The target population was the bonafide residents, local/religious leaders, some relief agency personnel, and some officials from the office of the Prime Minister (OPM) since they have got experience in refugee related issues.

3.4 Sample selection

Purposive sampling technique was used to select respondents fit to participate in the study. Purposive sampling is synonymous with qualitative research, which focuses on smaller groups rather bigger ones (Palys, 2008). The participants who in the view of the research are seen as one who can inform the research were selected and included in the study (Sergeant, 2012, p.1-2). The researcher used this technique to carefully select subjects based on the study purpose, with the expectation that each participant would provide unique and rich information of value to the study (Suen, et al, 2014).

3.4.1 Sample size

A considerable number of **31** people were interviewed of which included; **7** local leaders of the host community, **3** relief agency personnel, **1** officer from the Office of the Prime Minister and **20** resident members of the host community.

3.5 Data collection instruments

As regards the collection and gathering of data from the field, the researcher used interviews and Focus group discussions which guided and helped the researcher to be in contact with the respondents. This helped the researcher gather enough information upon which to draw meaningful conclusion.

3.6 Data sources

The researcher used primary data sources as absolute means of collecting in depth information which can easily be analyzed. The data to be collected was from the information source itself to address specific questions.

3.6.1 Interviews

This involved direct communication and interaction between the researcher and respondents. In this particular study, interviews were conducted in person with the **1** OPM officer, **7** host community's local leaders. This ensured clarity and specificity of the questions. The interviews were guided by the Interview guide.

3.6.2 Focus Group Discussion

20 local members of the host community were grouped in four groups and facilitated by the researcher himself as they responded to questions.

3.8 Validity and Reliability of data

The researcher ensured validity of data by revision and pretesting research questions so that any ambiguity and inconsistencies were eradicated while reliability was ensured by control of extraneous variables as much as possible. This was achieved through the raw data collected from the field by the respondents recorded information as it maintained the originality of the data collected. Once the research protocol was followed, as indicated in this methodology, well justified by other sources, it was considered valid, while reliability was guaranteed for whatever responses that the research questions elaborately obtained. In this study, researcher used justifications from other authors about research process, collaborated participant responses with study objectives and

provided simple and precise ways of categorizing responses, as well as for crosschecks of responses to ensure they are consistent with the research questions.

3.9 Data collection procedure

Bala (2015:77) presented five guiding questions on data collection procedure: 1) How to collect data – considering the guiding document, time frame, responsible person and source of information; 2) When is data collected – ensuring a point in time when each piece is gathered; 3) Who is responsible – the data manager; 4) Where data is stored – tools to be used to store data; 5) How to ensure that data is collected – dealing with erroneous data and ensure reliable data. In this study, the researcher used the following steps:

3.10 Approval of research proposal

The first step of the data collection procedure was securing approval of the research proposal by the research committee of the department of Ethics and Development Studies.

3.10.1 Researcher introduction remarks

The researcher greeted and clearly introduced himself to the participants with evidence of his letter of introduction from the department of Ethics and Development Studies. Within the introduction remarks, the researcher highlighted where he is coming from, nature of the study, its benefits and safety issues. This facilitated acceptance and increase participation rates.

3.11 Data cleaning

The researcher ensured that collected data was cleaned at every day's end of field work while still fresh in the mind. This was for the purposes of removing errors from the data collected.

3.12 Data analysis

In analysing data obtained from the field, the researcher organized the data given by respondents and interviewees using qualitative analysis. Here, the researcher analysed and categorised the data in terms of recorded voices frequency and paper documentations in order to help the researcher to come with conclusive recommendations. The researcher coded, identified themes, created various themes found, presented and interpreted them, and supported by verbatim from respondents.

Data was tabulated in distribution tables showing responses for each question item by item.

3.13 Ethical considerations of the study

The researcher ensured that the proposal passed through the research ethics committee to ensure that no harm was intended for any who intended to participate in the study. There was clear consent before gathering any information from the sample population. The information collected was to be used for research purposes only and confidentiality was the norm, emphasized through non-consideration of participant names or by making it optional. And at the end of the study appreciation remarks were made.

3.14 Demerits and merits of the study

The researcher was faced with the challenge of language barrier. But by use of interpreters the problem of language barrier helped resolve impasse. The use of voice recorders by the researcher also assisted in capturing the data in its raw form as this reduced the research burden.

Conclusion

This chapter provides the view on how the research was carried out in Rwamwanja settlement, using interviews and observations as research instruments facilitated by the methods pointed out above in analysing the collected data with the view of fulfilling the demands of the objectives of the study.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

In this chapter the researcher presents the findings reached in response to the research objective of the study. The purpose of study was to examine the possible threats posed by the influx of refugees on host communities. The findings were reached in response to the following specific objectives: to examine the actual threats posed by refugees influx on host communities; to assess the effects of threats posed by the refugees influx on host communities; to identify possible solutions to the threats posed by the refugees influx on host communities. An exploratory research design was used and phenomenological in nature, to which the research questions were as follows; what are the actual threats posed by refugee's influx on host communities? What is the impact of the threats posed by the refugees' influx on host communities? What are the possible solutions to the threats posed by the refugees' influx on host communities? The findings are presented below each theme (objective) accompanied by respondent verbatim (Burnard, Gill, Stewart, Treasure and Chadwick, 2008). The researcher presented the findings below:

4.2 Actual threats posed by refugees influx on host communities.

To most respondents, threats posed by the refugee influx range from military, political, economic and social insecurity. From refugee influx there accrues phenomena like, language barrier, possession of arms and community hostility. The concurrent/alternative source of insecurity is

seen to be common sources of conflict which comprise of water and food supply, education, economy, healthy and sanitation and environment.

Findings from interviews conducted on people's attitudes towards refugees

An attitude is a way of thinking about someone or something, typically one that is reflected in a person's behavior (Hogg, & Vaughan, 2005). Peoples' feeling about refugees; they feel that refugees animosity and mistrust; this animosity is perpetuated by a frame of reference which was common in respondents' testimonies.

...I was beaten when I greeted refugees in a group. I could not fight back because I was alone.

- Woman from Katelweba village (Name withheld).

....we cannot be in good terms because refugees are bad and are always chaotic.

- One of LC1 chairmen. (Name withheld).

Also there was a common perception that refugees have an aggressive behavior, that often leads to passive resistance, in which refugees superficially; support any program implementation verbally while not taking any of the steps that such support would actually entail that is to say, veiling one's intent to not do something in performing the specific task this leads to unwanted result caused.

...they do not fulfil what the relief organisation directs them, and end up causing more unwanted outcomes. They are habitual partners of passive resistance, opposition, and stubbornness.

- Officer from the OPM (Name withheld)

Findings on how the two groups relate

It was mentioned, the intensity of competition over access to economic resources like land and other facilities, in the settlement was one of the most significant factors that shaped refugee-host relations. The misunderstandings come up because some local community members expect to be treated in the same way like refugees ie, be given free food and medical facility hence an incompatible relation arising from the scarcity of resources such as land and water.

...our land was given to refugees and now our animals have nothing to eat and we are almost starving with nothing to eat and we just watch refugees receive free food from the government.

- A man from Rwencwera village (Name withheld)

...this land belongs to us, how can they stop us from passing through our own land saying after 6:00 pm we should never cross the settlement. We gave them land not to put orders on it.

- Chairman of one of the villages (Name withheld)

What refugees presence threatens the host members

This is because it's always associated with Killings, rape, Militant Groups Present, Communal conflicts, Theft of property and witchcraft.

Physical security is paramount if any community is to progress both politically, socially and economically. (Bocha, 2010: 21) makes it clear that too often refugees are perceived as a matter for international charity organizations, and not as a political and security problem yet refugee

problems are in fact intensely political. The presence of refugees accelerates existing internal conflicts in the host community.

...My relative was killed in January and we could not get his body and we reported, there was no evidence and up to now. These refugees are also cannibals, they ate my son. I fear meeting them when I am alone.

- Woman from Rwencwera (name withheld)

A part from posing security threats to host state, refugees also poison relations between the state of origin and the state providing asylum. The poisoned relations could therefore advance to aggression between the countries involved if not carefully handled.

...My son is married to a Congolese woman, but I hate the woman, she can kill my son. I want him to divorce her because the relatives are demanding a lot of bride wealth.

- A man from Damasiko village (name withheld)

...My cousin daughter was raped by refugees when she had gone to collect firewood from the bush.

- Chairman noted (name withheld)

...We are not secure in the presence of refugees, they have bad hearts. They steal our crops at night from the garden.

- Chairman noted (name withheld)

Findings on things that refugees do or are doing that do not impress the local community or seem a threat to the community

Almost in every criminal offence, a refugee is involved, refugees are fighting hosts when they see them cross the settlement after 6:00 pm. This annoys the host and they feel offended and more to that social Prostitution, Denial to cross the camp after 6 pm, increased criminality

Generation decay, Killings & Serious injuries.

4.2.1 Social insecurity

The social insecurity aspect is at the top of the conflict in Rwamwanja settlement. This is so because; the hosting community and their leaders inclusive possess a certain phobia of the new comers in the community. This is the reason why most of the respondents more often than not were quick to presume refugees being the cause of every conflict. Social misunderstandings are caused by various actions of violence such as fighting, assault, robberies, rape and killings between refugees and the host community.

...I fear people who come and are new in our village.

- A member from Kalweba village (Name withheld).

...I have seen refugees involved in fighting so often and when they are fighting and you come to stop them from fighting you are also beaten.

..... we have fought with refugee because they disturb our young girls, my daughter was raped and when we tried to arrest a refugee using the Local Councils it turned into a fight, many refugees came and myself I was injured until police came and assisted in arresting a refugee. .

- A man from Rwencwera village (Name withheld).

Conflict situations easily escalate from small disputes between refugees and hosts into large conflicts involving killings. Common situations where such disputes start are through communication misunderstandings, arguing over salary for work, when hosts want to use water facilities in the camp and when refugees go outside the camp to collect firewood.

....rape and killings are the most cause of conflict and hatred among the two groups.

- Security officer (Name withheld).

...When I paid a refugee some money after digging my garden, he refused it saying it was little. He wanted to fight

- *Man from Damasiko* (Name withheld).

People from the host community have a curfew to leave the camp at 6 pm, but this is hard to control. In 2004 a small conflict that merged when refugee confronted the chairman LC1 of the neighbouring village not to cross the settlement when it was after 6:00 pm, escalated into a large conflict where many people, both host and refugee were injured. This is still the case if one is found in the settlement.

....our chairman was hurt by refugees in the settlement; we fought them until police came to chase us away.

- A man from Kalyeba village (Name withheld).

I have chosen to divide conflict between community and individual conflicts experienced by the respondents. The choice of dividing respondents' experiences of conflict in this way is done for

structural purposes and to enable a better understanding of what kind of conflicts that is experienced by the respondents in relation to the refugee population.

Kasami, in his response during a focus group discussion stated that the nature of community conflicts is not a on man's issue and described it as a conflict between communities rather than only few individuals. Individual conflicts are the kind of conflicts described by respondents as individual incidents including fewer individuals rather than whole communities. The divide between individual and community conflict levels is not always straight forward, but can also be dynamic where conflicts often start at individual level and escalate into what can be described as a community conflict.

4.2.1.1 Community conflict

Respondents from almost all villages mentioned the issue of land given to the refugees as having been grabbed from the local population. Looking at what most of them were saying, one would think the government was unfair in the exercise of land allocation to the refugees as the locals chorusly chanted.

...our fertile land was given to those refugees.

Like I already noted on the previous theme on social conflict, the local people pressed the refugees too much to deny them intermarriages. It's just a question of co-existence with mutual respect for one another. This is not to glorify the refugees on the other hand but they ought to have been careful and observe the customs of their host communities which they adamantly refuse to observe.

Rwecwera respondents further described a recent incident where some two Bafumbira boys got beaten to death by some refugees. This came about when the boys were grazing and their animals encroached on refugees crops. The individual incident further escalated into a community conflict

between their village and refugees from the camp, when the locals wanted to find out where their children were refugees fought back. Thank God police was alerted and the situation was calmed down.

Majority of the respondents argued that conflicts described at community level between host and refugees are most frequent these days. These conflicts take place both in the refugee camp and in villages in the host community. Many of these conflicts start from smaller incidents and then escalated.

...the main causes behind these conflicts relate to issues such as dispute over land, intermarriage issues and the problems of food shortage in the host community

- Man from Damasiko noted (Name withheld).

Basing on the above, the possibility of refugees being a social threat becomes more visible and a serious destruction to the social harmony of the hosting community. This is because the normal play of events would be that if the Congolese woman has been assaulted, the refugees would have used the structures put in place for resolving conflicts. So mobilization by the refugees to retaliate on the locals is uncalled for.

4.2.1.2 Individual conflicts

Individual conflict mainly concerns an individual for example, where two people fight for land, children fighting while fetching water and so on. Respondents from most villages experienced individual conflicts with refugees. These types of conflicts largely take place within the camp. The nature of these incidents may nonetheless vary and include different features of the conflict term defined earlier.

Many of the refugees are not content with the food rations allocated to them, the boreholes for water, land for cultivating, so a number of times some of them do collect food from the hosts villages, sometimes stealing cooked food and this also poses a challenge. This phenomenon annoys most local people and makes them feel double cheated first by the refugee presence and the lawlessness of the refugees.

...I don't have a kitchen, refugees stole my food from the cooking stones when I and my husband were inside the house; we slept hungry that night.

- A women from Rwencwera (Name withheld)

A female respondent from Rwencwera village explained that her friend got killed in the camp by refugees and her body was chopped into pieces and hidden. She further stated that there are several incidents where people from their village gone to the camp for different reasons and never return. Similar situations of conflict are explained by several of the other respondents. She further added that, these refugees are known for cannibalism, indeed she said, refugees presence is a real threat to them. She added that when refugees had just arrived, they feared to move at night because it was alleged that refugees would kill and feast on their bodies.

One incident that has been repeated to the researcher by several people including respondents from the host community, UNHCR and LWF is an incident where a local police officer had been scalded with boiling water by some refugees after he had been accused of beating some refugees during food distribution. The situation was nevertheless under investigation at the time I conducted my research in Rwamwanja. I heard several versions of this case from different perspectives. It was

obviously a situation of conflict that had escalated between the refugee community and the local police of Rwamwanja where several incidents of violence took place from both parts.

According to most of the respondents, individual conflicts between locals and refugees remain frequent. These situations usually take place inside the camp. The most commonly reported cause of conflict is when locals approach the camp to look for work and access to food and water. These conflicts often start through disputes over payment when working for or trading with refugees. Several of the respondents further argue that these individual conflicts easily can escalate into community levels.

Another threat is prostitution and sexual exploitation of girls from the host community in the refugee camp, prostitution was mentioned by four respondents. The respondents argue that girls from the host community go to the camp and get involved in prostitution in search of livelihood as their opportunities are limited. This Akora said, it's a big threat to the young generation and that this puts the host community at risk of the threat of sexual transmitted diseases like AIDS.

4.2.2 Internal Threat

Media coverage is limited since Rwamwanja is located in a very remote area traditionally featured by insecurity, lack of rule of law and weakly governed. The lack of government and security presence (before the refugee camp) in Rwamwanja has made the reporting of criminal activities by the host community rare.

...our village is far from the road, even when some bad thing happens it is not put on TV and radio, this makes refugees keep disturbing our peace.

- Chairman from one of the villages. (Name withheld).

This is common in many remote pastoralist communities (in this region) therefore finding additional sources on individual conflicts (outside the refugee camp) such as described by respondent above is difficult.

I am not in doubt that such situations as described by the respondents have and are taking place in Rwamwanja. In addition these conflicting relationship between the communities, incidents of violence were confirmed.

... individual conflicts between the two communities are frequent, incidents involving death and serious injury take place on daily basis, and outbreaks of violence and unrest occur without warning

- Staff from UNHCR and Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

4.2.3 Economic threat

On arrival, refugees compete with the local citizens for scarce resources such as land, water, housing, food and medical services. Over time, their presence leads to more substantial demands on natural resources, education and health facilities, energy, transportation, social services and employment. They further cause inflationary pressures on prices and depress wages.

In some instances, they significantly alter the balance of supply of goods and services in such a way that, the demand of food items, clothing and farming materials becomes too high in prices due to the increased population and these high prices affect the local people. One vivid example of market disorders according to respondents is when they need to rent accommodation for office and residential purposes, the prices are higher than before not just for expatriates, but also for locally engaged staff, in response to a refugee situation. Increased construction activity results, but

this is usually accompanied by increases in rent, benefiting those who are property owners, but adversely affecting the poor and those on fixed incomes, such as government officers.

...we used to buy food from markets cheap, now it doubled the prices, we also used to do work and get some good money but now refugees do it cheaply and we fail to get what do casually

- One member of Kalyeba village noted (Name withheld).

Due to use of trees and other building materials to put up shelter by refugees, the normal prices of timber is affected since trees are being cut down in huge quantities and no afforestation is done. Likewise, during the discussion with Rwencwera village members a certain Thomas talked of increased demand for food and other commodities that lead to price rises in the market which stimulates local economic activity, although, again, not benefiting the poorest.

Public Insecurity

In addition to societal and economic insecurity, public insecurity has emerged as an aspect which is threatened by refugee influx.

...we fear to be assaulted, harassed or subjected to other incidents of violence with refugees when we are in the camp settlement.

- Chairman from one of the villages (Name withheld).

....refugees from South Sudan are a threat to us, some of our colleagues were killed by South Sudanese, for a small insult to them can lead to a serious fight.

- Chairman from one of the villages (Name withheld).

Findings whether there is a peaceful co-existence between the host members and the refugees

Almost all the respondents testified that peaceful co-existence is more of a myth than a reality and this implies that security is seriously compromised as each group tends to be aggressive to the other. The situation in this host community is alarming because of the animosity between the two groups. Until this is resolved every effort must be made to keep the situation under control, by easing the pressures on host community and strengthening the individual and collective co-existence of refugee and host community populations together.

...we are all painfully aware of the destruction and horrific violence inflicted upon us.

Findings on challenges the hosts face while living with refugees

The construction of a refugee settlement, and the subsequent influx of thousands of refugees from different ethnic groups and countries, changes the environment of the host community in positive and negative ways. In most cases, initial kindness gives way to hostility as a number of security issues and resource scarcities arise. This kindness or hostility is dependent on the economic, political, and security situation within the host state, resulting in potential upheaval at any given time.

Refugees are often seen as a security threat to the host community. For example, the Bafumbira accuse the Dinka (a Sudanese ethnic group) in Rwamwanja refugee camp of raping their women. In addition, the host population says that refugees engage in illegal activities such as prostitution, drugs, robbery and gambling.

Since the arrival of refugees to Rwamwanja the host community's water supply has been severely compromised. Bafumbira hosts argue that there are huge demands on the scarce local water resources and this gives rise to friction between the local community and refugees.

...our women are forced to travel long distances to fetch water resulting in chest pains and miscarriages.

- Man from Kalyeba village (Name withheld).

Deforestation by refugees has also threatened the food security of the host community, who depend on pasture and fruits for survival as all pastoralists live

...our cows largely depend on the tree leaves, refugees have cut them down.

...we have no trees for building houses, refugees cut all.

- Chairman from one village (Name withheld).

In general, the influx of refugees causes an increase in communicable infectious diseases in the surrounding areas.

....our children are always sick; they get sick from the settlement by those refugees

- Chairman from one village (Name withheld).

At the same time, this increase is often accompanied by the improvement of health and sanitation services in the area, locals are allowed to utilize the health services at the refugee camp, but for example, Rukunyu health center, health services beneficiaries are partly host community members,

Nevertheless, there are cases where refugees have better health indicators than the surrounding villages, which lead to tension.

...refugees are given the best treatment in the health centers than us, my last born almost died until I went to a private health center.

- Woman from Kalyeba village (Name withheld).

4.3 The Impact of the Threats Posed by Refugee Influx

The findings from the host community will further be presented into different categories. Categories for presenting the findings are divided into the following: actual threats posed by refugees influx, effects of the threats posed by the refugees influx, and possible solutions to the threats posed by the refugees influx to the host community.

4.4 Findings on how refugees affect the economic state of the host community

4.4.1 Economic impacts

Indirect access to food and water has nevertheless been experienced by many through new market and job opportunities located in the camp.

Refugees are characterised by theft, they raid villages and steal crops from gardens, animals from farms and end up causing the host community suffer economic consequences and fail to sustain their livelihood.

...our crops are stole by refugees.

- Charman from one village (Name withheld).

...they are thieves, they stole my two goats

- Elderly from Kalyeba village (Name withheld).

Failure for peaceful co-existence between refugees and locals is unpredictable; there are still many conflicting issues. Frequent incidents of individual conflicts between hosts and refugees have negatively affected the lives of many. The researcher found that lack of vital resources such as food and water in the host community is high.

...I hate living or even finding myself near a refugee

- Man from Damasiko. (Name withheld)

Refugees especially Congolese are believed to feed on animals like cats and dogs, one respondent said they had finished their cats and this has in way left the rats unchecked and these rats destroy crops right from the fields even to the stores leading to low economic output .

....we have no security, our dogs are killed and eaten, cats killed and now rats are all around our village.

- One of the chairmen (Name withheld).

Market places in the camp are common areas where conflicts between hosts and refugees start. It is often women and children from the host community who approach the camp to sell firewood or other items to refugees. The officer further stated that situations where refugees refuse to pay hosts easily escalate into conflict through hosts returning to their village to mobilize retaliation.

4.4.2 Social impact

In general, the influx of refugees causes an increase in communicable infectious diseases in the surrounding areas. At the same time, this increase is often accompanied by the improvement of health and sanitation services in the area and locals are allowed to utilize the health services at the refugee camp. For example, at a refugee camp, “around 30% of the health services beneficiaries

are reported to be local people”. Nevertheless, there are cases where refugees have better health indicators than the surrounding villages.

...refugees are given the best treatment in the health centres than us, my last born almost died until I went to a private health centre.

- Woman from Kalyeba village (Name withheld).

Experiences of refugees disrespecting the Bafumbira who are the most predominant in the area, and the unlawful behaviours of the refugees were expressed by three respondents during a focus group discussion with Kalyeba respondents. They argue that refugees harass and disrespect them when they go to the camp to sell firewood or other items. Further the respondents argue that they receive no respect or gratitude from the refugees even if they are living in Rwamwanja land and are hosted by them.

Exposure to more conflicts and increased insecurity. Large conflicts involving entire communities are more common and individual conflicts between hosts and refugees are still reported as frequent and continually a threat affecting the lives of many hosts. The reality is that more social insecurity and conflict situations have been experienced in Rwamwanja after the refugee presence and has a significant negative impact on the host community.

Moral decadence especially rape of young girls by refugees around the host community area was reported as a negative impact that threatens many respondents.

.....our girls are used by rich refugees, they are convinced by the small moneys given to them.

- One the Chairman (Name withheld)

Some of the refugee who have money especially those doing business have also promoted prostitution (commercial sex). All this is due to refugee presence, one leader responded during the interview and ended up saying “with prostitution we are gone, the generations are finished”

In contrast, many of the respondents` claimed that the UN and NGOs present in Rwamwanja are only concerned with refugee needs although hosts are living in similar challenging conditions. Representatives from UNHCR, LWF and WFP confirmed that almost all humanitarian aid such as food, water and shelter are intentionally reserved for the refugee population.

Socio-cultural impacts were also mentioned. An experience of refugees disrespecting the culture and nationality of the Rwamwanja hosts is reported by about 75% of the respondents. The feeling of being disrespected and not receiving any appreciation from the people they are hosting have had a negative impact on the peaceful co-existence with the refugee population.

According to an interview with one local leader, interactions with refugees have for different reasons led to more social disharmony and conflicts in Rwamwanja. Conflicts between hosts and refugees are the most reported negative impact that threaten the lives of many host community members.

4.4.3 Environmental impact

On the issue of environment, it is clearly observed that the coming of the refugees has seriously destroyed the environment of the host community. Imagine the land cleared for the setup of temporal shelter for the refugees, and then the cutting of trees in the nearby bushes to construct houses, then the poor farming method as bush burning used by some refugees. All this does not go in line with conservation and one of the local leader suggested that before any refugee is given a place to put up a shelter, he or she should be given tree seedlings to plant first.

4.4.4 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNHCR have been present in Rwamwanja since the creation of the refugee settlement and is the leading organization in terms of operation in the settlement although there are other actors in the running of the settlement such as Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and World Food Programme (WFP) not forgetting the government of Uganda.

Here though, emphasis is put on the UNHCRs due to a number of researches it has carried out and activities facilitated. One of its objectives is to build capacity of refugees and host communities to promote peaceful coexistence. The Peace Building Officer had at the time of the interview worked with UNHCR in Rwamwanja for six months and so he assisted in providing a wider view of the prevailing living conditions in and around the camp.

Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is the official implementing partner of UNHCR and has been working with the refugee camp since the beginning of its existence.. The branch of LWF that was more relevant to this particular research has been the Peace Building Unit and Camp Security. The Peace Building Unit has been a branch of LWF in Rwamwanja since 1998 with its aim “to transform refugees to be able to embrace peace in the camp and coexistence with the host community”. The unit also cooperates with the UNHCR Peace Building.

The outcome of the interviews with officers of these organizations was that the host communities have also benefited from the coming of the refugees and a case in point was the common social amenities such as water and medical care accessed by members of both communities.

The relationship between the two communities is termed as being difficult according to the officer representing UNHCR in an interview. The relationship is characterised by frequent disputes and daily complaints from both parties. Refugees usually complain about robberies and assaults

committed by the host community. Hosts argue that the refugees always blame them because they want resettlement away from Rwamwanja. The peace building officer explained that in general both groups accuse each other of crimes, and that refugee community is armed with guns since some are former combatants and they crossed with them when the responsible stakeholders were not aware. It is not always easy to identify which allegations are true or false as both groups accuse each other of criminal activities which are threatening socially, both communities live in a state of fear.

These conflicts usually take place inside the camp and areas close to the Kagasha River. Incidents can start from issues such as inter-marriage disputes or refugees complaining that hosts attack their tents at night to steal their belongings supplied by relief agencies. Refugees claim that when they report criminal activities to the local police, the information is released back to the hosts who have committed the crimes. Refugees fear that hosts can come back and take revenge over those who reported them.

*.....when they report criminal activities to
the local police, the information is released*

- Officer from UNHCR (Name withheld)

The UNHCR officer further emphasized that there is a growing need for more attention and actions towards the relationship issue. Human and financial constraints within UNHCR Peace Building Unit make it difficult to also cover issues related to the host community.

One respondent from LWF pointed out that the relationship between hosts and refugees is and has been problematic, while the Peace Building officer describes the relationship as “good at this moment”. Both LWF representatives argue that the relationship has improved as there was more

hostility between the communities in the past. At present time there are more isolated conflict incidents rather than large community conflicts but due to demands on the scarce water resources and other economic resources friction between the two groups is always in place.

Interactions between hosts and refugees have become more frequent. Hosts were afraid to approach the camp in the past. Today hosts and refugees meet and interact in the camp at schools, business areas and at work places which promotes more coexistence according to the LWF representatives. Although interactions between hosts and refugees have become more common there are still many problems in the relationships. The peace building officer identifies that the lack of assistance to the host community as the main source of conflict in the relationship. People from the host community feel unequally treated by the humanitarian agencies present in Rwamwanja and channel their frustration towards the refugee population. Although the situation for the host community has improved there is still a significant gap in resource access which makes creating peace between the communities challenging. Overall the conflict situation has reduced, but hosts still feel that their needs have not been addressed.

The researcher noted with concern that the reason for tension among the communities may not be genuine, namely, that the host communities feel cheated because all aid is channelled to the refugees. Besides, according to the interviews made, there are some services shared by all the communities for instance, bore holes constructed in the camp are also being used by the hosts to fetch water.

The security officer identified the main source of conflict between hosts and refugees relating to the limited resources and poor conditions the host community are living in. He further argues that refugees live in much better conditions than the host community. In addition unequal support by

the humanitarian agencies contributes to the host community feeling marginalized and unfairly treated. According to the security officer 80% of all NGO programs in Rwamwanja are directed to the refugee population while around 20% is related to the host community.

Adapting to the refugee presence has also been challenging for the host community. The security officer claims that when the NGOs first came to Rwamwanja the hosts did not participate in the opportunities offered to them. Education opportunities at the time were not interesting for the traditional pastoralist community. In fact the majority of host community members who are benefiting from the goods (jobs, education, etc.) accompanied by the refugee presence are people who have migrated to Rwamwanja from other parts of the country. This has caused frustration to the hosts who lived in Rwamwanja before the refugee presence as they feel they are not benefiting anything from hosting refugees. As these hosts are lacking education they are rarely offered the most attractive jobs. Doing small assignments that are mostly manual labor, earn them little wages.

People from the host community are frustrated as they have the perception of refugees as “rich” and still receive support from the UN. They live in very poor conditions and struggle to survive. According to the security officer this has caused many hosts to displace their grievances toward the refugee population by being rude and stealing the little property owned by refugees.

The OPM officer confirmed that the relationship between the host and refugee community is conflicting, this is one of the officers who works closely with the refugees, he knows much concerning refugees.

Conflicts often start at water collection points inside the camp. People from the host community approach these water points because they have no clean water in their villages. The areas around Kagasha River is also a location where fighting between hosts and refugees take place according

to the OPM official. She claims that refugees sometimes contaminate the wells around the river bank which is the main source of drinking water for the host community. This puts locals at risk of contracting diseases like cholera and typhoid.

She further argues that unequal access to vital resources such as food and water are the main source of conflict and failure to co-exist peacefully. This great gap in resource access can further escalate into conflicts between hosts and refugees. She further points out that “refugee leaders have even asked NGOs to assist the host community members with food supplies, but nothing has been done for our people”.

Negative impacts are not a making of only the refugees but the respondents identified the fact that conflict situations between refugees and the host community have become a reality after the camp presence. This seemed obvious to the researcher that there would be no conflict between two groups if the other was absent.

And then, most of the ill effects arising from the co-existence of the host and refugee community is a two way game, for instance when some respondents talk about prostitution, its explained as local women offering commercial sex to interested refugees who have money. So if prostitution is a problem that brings a negative impact such as spread of AIDS or disrespect of culture and national laws then it’s something that both communities are responsible for.

Again, while new market and job opportunities are listed as positive, they also generate conflict situations with refugee communities. This comes when refugees are not appreciating all the hard work from the host community when they walk long distances for collecting firewood sold at markets in the camp. Therefore, these impacts are not necessarily isolated events, but rather dynamic and therefore need to be explored and analyzed in its context.

...conflicts between the two communities often start at markets and when working for refugees.

-Chairman from village (Name withheld).

Changes in terms of providing livelihoods have been experienced although the scale and significance varies. The majority of the respondents identified that they have experienced some changes. The most reported change is increase in the cost of living where by houses for rent drastically increased due to increased numbers of people especially refugees from South Sudan paying high rent. This comes about when a given refugee can afford to carry out trade, usually its not in the camp, he may mix freely with the members of the host communities to do his business.

The residents from Kinyonza village had a complete change in their livelihood approach after the refugee presence. They have changed from their previous livestock system to rather depending on the refugee camp where they go to work or beg for food and money from the relief agency officers. According to the Kinyonza respondents their main reasons for giving up the livestock system is related to issues of big numbers of refugees who have cut down most of the forests, caused erosion on the soil and when dry seasons are on, there is much competition on grazing land. Several of the respondents from Kinyonza further argue that although they are living in similar challenging conditions as the refugees now, they do not receive any assistance from the UNHCR or NGOs present in Rwamwanja. In addition are the food and services in the camp not available for them according to the Kinyonza respondents.

64.5% of respondents which is the largest group stated that situations of conflict, violence and hostility between hosts and refugees are common. At the same time the respondents in this group

also experienced personal relationships with refugees that have not been problematic. Therefore respondents in this group described their relationship as unbalanced.

Two respondents from Kalyeba described the relationship as unpredictable where they sometimes can work together and sometimes conflicts starts between them. Conflicts between hosts and refugees are still visible and going on according to several of the respondents in this group.

4.5 The possible solutions to the threats posed by the refugee influx on host communities.

In this part issues regarding the solutions to the threats posed by the refugee influx to host communities will be presented from a host community perspective.

The peace building officer stated that there is a need for more attention and actions towards enhancing the relationship between the host and refugee community for promoting better coexistence. Peace building meetings involving community leaders from both communities needs to be more frequent and regular.

There are several challenges facing these peace building meetings. The first challenge is the language barriers. There are over 11 nationalities in addition to the Rufumbira language. To get people from the host community to participate is also difficult. When hosts participate in these meetings they are losing important time used for generating income. Hosts therefore feel that they should be given something for participating. Financial and human resources are a great challenge for addressing all these big issues with the host community according to the officer and to him, no suggested solution was mentioned.

The representatives from LWF all agree that improving mechanisms for promoting peace are important. Continuing initiatives and activities that are bringing both communities together is

crucial for promoting more coexistence in the relationship. Sharing facilities between hosts and refugees such as mixed schools is emphasized.

Joint forums for discussing problems and finding solutions together is mentioned as important for improving the relationship and avoiding conflicts as a threat according to the peace building officer. The officer further argues that peace meetings need to be more frequent and also involve participants from the government and NGOs. The government only participates in larger meetings which are conducted four times a year. This is far too rare in the officer's opinion. Challenges of new refugee arrivals are also something that needs to be handled.

The LWF Chief Security Officer points out that although there are many challenges in terms of the relationship there have also been some improvements. The change in security structure in 2005 to combine incentive staff (refugees) and local police has had a positive impact on the camp security and improved collaboration. Smaller incidents are now handled by the peace units (LWF and UNHCR) while larger cases are directed to the local police. He further adds that there has been a positive development of reporting criminal activities rather than being resolved by communities confronting each other.

4.6 Conclusion

In this chapter, the researcher has presented, analyzed and interpreted data collected from the field of study in a systematic form on the investigation into a critical analysis of the threats posed by refugee influx to the host communities.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary, conclusion, recommendations of observations from the study. The conclusion was derived from the findings in chapter four and recommendations made are to help further research and to help come up with a solution to the study.

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 Actual threats

Continued blame games between the host and refugee communities and a number of conflicts leading to open battles have been witnessed, and every time this happens, each community holds the other responsible for such conflicts.

Harassment

Insecurity

Economic deprivation

Environmental degradation

Loss of employment opportunities

5.1.2 Impacts

There is phobia of staying with people from different countries. This was observed in the manner and language used by locals to describe the refugees during the interviews.

The host community does not live in harmony with the refugees

Mistrust and animosity is the order of the day

5.1.3 Possible solutions to the threats

Solution to grievances is a point of concern not just of a host-refugee community, but conflicts pop up in every community and an amicable way of resolving them is very important. Joint forums for discussing problems and finding solutions together was suggested by the host community members.

The relief agencies do not offer a helping hand to the local people, most members of the host communities are uneducated and poor and they lack food, safe water and other essentials of living. This makes them to look at the refugee camps as better places than their own homes. In fact during the interviews one local leader admitted that the refugees live a better life than some of his resident's in terms of economic livelihood. Host community members suggested that relief agencies should extend a hand of helping them to, not refugees alone.

Finally, the problem of environmental degradation is easily noticed. Allocation of land to refugees for construction is not much of an ordeal but the heavy cutting down of trees for construction, the poor farming methods such as bush burning and lack of facilities for disposing rubbish is a huge

set back to environmental conservation, host community members suggested that re-afforestation and other good methods of farming be encouraged in the refugee community.

The study findings, insights and conclusions should enlighten the government through the office of the Prime Minister to find new approaches in the protection of refugees while maintaining peace and security in the host communities and the country at large and relief agencies both local and international that are having interests in joining the cause for refugees should make good use of the study recommendations in terms of knowing the threats common in refugee communities, the impact of the threats posed by the refugees' influx on host communities and host communities and the possible solutions to the threats posed by the refugees' influx on host communities.

5.2 Conclusions

The conflicting relationship between the hosting community and the refugees, is attributed to a number of factors like scarcity of resources like land and water. During the study, the researcher discovered that from the beginning, the host community was not prepared enough by government to welcome the refugees.

The local people have a fear to stay with the refugees even before they are offended, they are already suspicious of the refugees and associate them with many negative practices of witch craft and cannibalism. And this in turn soils the relationship between the two communities.

Language barrier, hostility and wrong elements among the refugees are the main barriers to peaceful co-existence between the two communities.

There is no much information to the local people and refugees about the operation of a settlement camp. Host community members think that they have the right to share the same privileges as

refugees which is not possible. And their question is how their own government can seem to abandon them to take care of other people who left their home countries.

5.3 Recommendations

The following recommendations are given in good spirit by the researcher to help build the academic gap for other researchers on the same topic or different research altogether.

It's also intended for those working in Rwamwanja with issues regarding Rwamwanja refugee camp and host community. The recommendations are based on the findings and analysis of this research and how to address pressing issues faced in Rwamwanja.

The first recommendation goes to the Government of Uganda to prepare the hosting community members psychologically to be able to co-exist peacefully with the refugees. There should be no usual chasing of people from the land they occupy even when its government property. The local leaders of the people should be involved on the strategies laid by government to promote harmonious stay. This will also eliminate the phobia by some locals to stay with strangers.

In addition to the above, the Government ought to cater for the host communities in as much as she caters for the refugees. All the causes of conflict that are viewed in chapter two had something to do with scarcity of food, water, land and the rest. Sincerely how do you expect someone to leave a bore hole nearby in the camp to go miles and miles looking for water. Hence, the government needs to make available those essential services to the people of the host community so that they don't look for them in the settlement.

I recommend that thorough checking of the refugees is done before they are settled in an area to be able to identify and prevent some refugees from causing havoc. There should be continuous screening even when refugees are already settled. This can be done by both Government of Uganda and other stake holders to curb down serious security threats.

The refugees also ought to conform to the acceptable laws the community where they are. It should be made clear to the refugees through their leaders by government that much as they are suffering, suffering should not be a ticket for committing crimes and discomforting others. Both national and international laws of a peaceful existence must apply.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Uganda Martyrs University

Department of Diplomatic and International Studies

KAMPALA – Uganda.

Dear Participant,

I Kazahura Bernard a student of Uganda Martyrs University, carrying out **MRMS** Research on: finding out the possible threats posed by the influx of refugees on host communities

A Case Study of Rwamwanja refugee settlement, Kamwenge District, do request you kindly to provide me with any necessary information as asked for below, which will only be used for the purposes of this research and shall be treated with the greatest confidentiality.

Thank you for your contribution.

.....

KAZAHURA Bernard

RESEARCHER

A) In-depth Interview Guide: For Relief Agencies representatives and Officer from the OPM.

The interview is designed to seek your view on the possible threats posed by the influx of refugees on host communities. The confidentiality of your information is highly guaranteed.

Thanks in anticipation of your co-operation.

Name

Sex.....

Date.....

1. How long have you been in operation in this settlement?
2. How do these groups relate?
3. Do you feel threatened by the refugee's presence?
4. What are some of the things refugees do or are doing that does not impress the locals or seem a threat to this host community?
5. Do you think there is a peaceful co-existence between the host members and the refugee in this area?
6. What challenges do you think the hosts face while living with refugees?
7. Are refugees a threat to this community? If yes, how and to what extent?
8. Do you think the refugee influx has affected the economic state of the people (nationals) of this area? How?
9. Suggest any recommendations to the Government of Uganda or other stake holders so as to effect better economic policies for the refugees so as to ensure peace and economic development in this host community?

B) FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Date

Village..... Time started..... Time ended.....

Number of Participants

The focus group seeks your views on the possible threats posed by the influx of refugees on host communities. Confidentiality of your information is highly guaranteed. Thanks in anticipation of your co-operation.

1. How long have you been in this community?
2. What do you think of refugees staying in your area?
3. What is your feeling/attitude towards refugees?
4. How peaceful are they in your area?
5. Do you feel threatened by the refugees presence?
6. Do you think there is a peaceful co-existence between you and the refugee in your area of stay?
7. Does the presence of refugees a social challenge? If yes, How?
8. What challenges do you face while living with refugees?
9. To what extent are refugees a threat to you? If yes, how
10. What effects mostly have changed your way of life as a result of refugees influx and settlement in this very area?
11. Do you think the refugee influx has affected the economic state of the area you live in today? How? (If yes).
12. Suggest any recommendations to the Government of Uganda so as to effect better economic policies for the refugees so as to ensure peace and economic development in your area.

C) In-depth Interview Guide for Host Community Local Leaders

The interview is designed to seek your view on the possible threats posed by the influx of refugees on host communities. The confidentiality of your information is highly guaranteed. Thanks in anticipation of your co-operation.

Name

Sex.....

Date.....

10. How long have you been in this community?
11. What is your feeling/attitude towards refugees?
12. What do you think of refugees staying in your area?
13. How peaceful are they in your area?
14. Do you feel threatened by the refugees presence?
15. What are some of the things refugees do or are doing that does not impress you or seem a threat to your community?
16. Do you think there is a peaceful co-existence between your people and refugee in your area of stay? If no, what is the problem?
17. What challenges do you face while living with refugees?
18. Are refugees a threat to you? If yes, how
19. What effects mostly have changed the way of life of the natives of this area as a result of refugees influx and settlement in this very area?
20. Do you think the refugee influx has affected the economic state of the people (nationals) of the area you live in today?
21. Suggest any recommendations to the Government of Uganda so as to effect better economic policies for the refugees so as to ensure peace and economic development in Rwamwanja.